

A Queer National Policy.

Secretary Shaw attacks silver with frank brutality. He goes for it with an ax. He wants greenbacks, silver dollars and silver certificates made payable in gold right away, at the option of the holder, and he wants all the silver bullion and silver dollars in the treasury and in circulation coined into small change as fast as possible. Silver is to be eliminated from the currency except as it serves for change.

Yet the same man, in the same report, says that the currency is altogether insufficient for the needs of business, and that more currency must be furnished by permitting the banks to issue it.

The secretary not only favors permitting the banks to issue all the paper money, but he favors permitting them to base it on their assets, and adds: "Neither do I believe it necessary to make currency thus issued a first lien upon assets." He says that the calculations of the actuary of the treasury department show that an annual tax of one-eighth of one per cent on the annual circulation of bank notes would have created a guarantee fund large enough to redeem the notes of the national banks which have failed since the system was instituted.

Mr. Shaw favors collection by the government of such a tax, the proceeds to be held as a guarantee or insurance fund for the bank notes. The government under this system would issue only gold coins and small change, and the banks would take charge of all the remainder of the currency.

Recent presidents and heads of the treasury department seem to have been possessed with enmity to silver, and Mr. Roosevelt and Secretary Shaw are not exceptions to the rule. It seems strange to discern in the president's message a tender solicitude for the country's manufacturing interests, which leads him to declare that no change that shall injure manufacturing shall be made in the tariff on any consideration, yet to find the whole force of the administration thrown to accomplish the obliteration of silver production, which is an industry that affords employment to many thousands of men and that adds wealth in a solid and indestructible form to the world's possessions. The same remarkable discrimination is to be observed in the case of beet sugar, which affords employment to thousands of farmers and thousands of sugar factory hands.

The anxiety in regard to manufacturing does not extend to all kinds of manufacturing. It throws a protecting arm around those forms of manufacturing which have their location in the Atlantic coast states or are owned there, and which control the policies of the dominant party.

The currency policy and the tariff policy of Roosevelt are dictated by the same influences which dictated the policies of McKinley, Harrison and Cleveland.

The great banks demand control of the currency and they are going to get it.

Why shouldn't the business organizations of Colorado pledge their protests against the proposed attacks on silver and beet sugar? This is a matter of business, not politics.—Denver News.

Like Barmecide.

We have all heard the origin of the phrase, "Like Barmecide's Feast," and remember reading of the great financier (as he would be called) who had palaces galore and gold enough to buy one quarter of the earth.

He invited a starving beggar to dinner and entertained him by describing the luxuries he would soon

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enjoy. He seated him at a golden table laden with golden dishes all of which were empty.

Roosevelt may be a descendant of his for he follows his example in a more modified and less conspicuous fashion. He sends out a message of great promise ignoring past failures and promising future successes; he quotes present prosperity and assures the people of its continuance; glosses over the coal famine and food famine in a remarkable manner and extends a hearty invitation to the distressed, impoverished working class to sit at his table of prosperity and drink of his cup of pleasure and success.

They come—a long sad train of cold, hungry, cheerless men and women, but like Barmecide's Feast, the prosperity is visible and not partakable. In short, it is for the classes alone.—Lewiston (Ill.) News.

Cosmic Reformation.

R. B. Godfrey, of Lincoln, Neb., has prepared for the reading public several books and pamphlets that he desires to call attention to. "Cosmic Reformation" is devoted to moral, mental and physical reform. "The Literary Crucible" contains a system of education that will obtain, as the author believes, the truth on all moral, mental, physical, social, civic, scientific and religious subjects. "Demnology," as the title indicates, deals with an important topic, "What they are, where they came from and why they are," and offers answers to the questions. "The World's Spiritual Conquest" deals with the problems of converting the world to Christ. Mr. Godfrey practices the golden rule and says that it is his only political platform. Any one desiring further information should address the author, R. B. Godfrey, General Delivery, Lincoln, Neb.

The New Hamlet.

Rand, McNally & Co., of Chicago, have published a unique volume prepared by "William Hawley Smith and the Smith family, farmers." It is entitled "The New Hamlet" and is "intermixed and interwoven with a revised version of Romeo and Juliet." The New Hamlet is the product of the versatile brain of Mr. William Hawley Smith, whose wit and humor are evident throughout. It is exceedingly bright and interesting.

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